

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. In the present amendment, claims 1, 11, 25-26, 32 and 38 have been amended.

In the Office Action of December 19, 2002, the Examiner rejected the claims as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830 issued to Sigler et al. (Sigler, hereinafter). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose all elements of the claims. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose a distributed network, as claimed in all independent claims, over which data packets are communicated to the communication devices. An example of a distributed network is the Internet, as shown in Figure 1.

In contrast, Sigler discloses a satellite communication system, see, e.g., Abstract and Figure 8, which is functionally and structurally different from a distributed network. Satellite communication systems transmit and receive information at L-band and Ku-band frequencies over satellite beams, see, e.g., col. 1, lines 35-45. In Sigler, the controller allocates the frequencies and broadcasts the messages to the net group, see, e.g., FIG. 10A, S10.

Per Claim 3, Sigler does not disclose “a memory unit to store said packet data until said controller is ready to receive said packet data.” Sigler’s memory, as cited by the Examiner in Col. 21, lines 8-15, stores “NET ID.”

Per Claim 6, Sigler does not disclose “said priority level is dynamically configurable.”

Per Claim 7, Sigler does not disclose “said communication device receives information from said controller regarding said group communications net.”

Per Claim 9, Sigler does not disclose “said communication device further comprises identification information, and . . . updates its identification information. . . .” Sigler discloses NET IDs, and not communication device IDs, which are updateable.

Therefore, since Sigler does not disclose at least the above claimed elements, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) In a communications system, a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system including a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said push-to-talk communication device, said device comprising:

a processor to convert information signals into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network;

a transmitter to transmit packet data through a first channel to said controller over said distributed network;

a receiver to receive packet data through a second channel from said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to activate said transmitter when a user of said communication device wishes to transmit said packet data to said controller.

11. (Amended) In a communications system, an apparatus to adapt a communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system comprising at least two communication devices and having a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said communication devices, said apparatus comprising:

a first port to establish a first channel with said controller over a distributed network;

a processor electrically connected to said first port, wherein said processor is dynamically configurable to send packet data through said first channel to said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to allow a user of said communication device to transmit said packet data to said controller.

25. (Amended) In a communications system, a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system including a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said push-to-talk communication device, said device comprising:

a processor to convert information signals into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network, wherein said processor further comprises identification information, and wherein said processor updates its identification information when its current identification information has or is about to change, and transmits its new identification information to said controller;

a transmitter to transmit packet data through a first channel to said controller over said distributed network;

a receiver to receive packet data through a second channel from said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to activate said transmitter when a user of said communication device to transmit said packet data to said controller.

26. (Amended) In a push-to-talk communication device, a method for participating in a group communication net, said method comprising:

receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and

transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.

32. (Amended) In a push-to-talk communication device, computer-readable medium embodying a method for participating in a group communication net, said method comprising:

receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and

transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.

38. (Amended) A communication device for participating in a group communication net, comprising:

means for receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

means for converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and

means for transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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